Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MEXICO 00538 160116Z

73
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-11 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 OMB-01 /117 W
---------- 119243
R 150052Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2385

INFO USMISSION OECD PARIS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA
USDEL MTN GENEVA
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MEXICO 0538

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, MX
SUBJECT: ESCAPE CLAUSE PROCEEDING ON ASPARAGUS--INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION EQUALLY DIVIDED IN ITS FINDINGS

REF: STATE 008732

1. REFTEL REPORTS A SPLIT VOTE IN THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION ON THE ELIGIBILITY OF DOMESTIC PRODUCERS OF FRESH ASPARAGUS FOR ASSISTANCE UNDER THE IMPORT RELIEF PROVISIONS OF THE TRADE ACT OF 1974, AND STATES THAT THIS MEANS THE PRESIDENT MAY CONSIDER EITHER POSITION AS THE OFFICIAL FINDING. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES STRONGLY THAT AS FAR AS MEXICO IS CONCERNED, GIVEN THIS DEGREE OF PRESID-
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MEXICO 00538 160116Z

ENTIAL DISCRETION, THE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PRESIDENT

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

SHOULD BRING OUT MOST CLEARLY THE IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR
RELATIONS WITH MEXICO OF THE APPLICATION OF RESTRICTIVE
MEASURES OF WHATEVER KIND AGAINST MEXICAN EXPORTS OF
FRESH ASPARAGUS TO THE UNITED STATES.

2. THE PRINCIPAL EFFECT OF AN OFFICIAL FINDING THAT
RESULTS IN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS WOULD BE TO GREATLY WEAKEN
OUR EFFORTS TO OVERCOME THE CONTINUAL, SOMETIMES VIRULENT
ATTACKS ON US TRADE POLICY. AS WE HAVE REPORTED ON OTHER
OCCASIONS, MEXICO'S OVERWHELMING DEPENDENCE ON US MARKETS
AND CURRENT HEAVY ADVERSE TRADE BALANCE WITH THE US HAS
TURNED US TRADE POLICY ISSUES INTO A MAJOR US-MEXICAN
FOREIGN POLICY PROBLEM. SO FAR, THE US TRACK RECORD IS
EXCELLENT, AND WE ARE ABLE TRUTHFULLY TO SHOW THAT THE
TRA HAS NOT BEEN USED IN ANY WAY TO INCREASE THE LOW
LEVEL OF US RESTRICTIONS AGAINST MEXICAN TRADE. CRITICS
ARE BEGINNING GRUDGINGLY TO ADMIT THE VALUE OF GSP, BUT
POINT TO OTHER PARTS OF THE TRA SUCH AS ESCAPE CLAUSE
PROVISIONS. OUR HIGH LEVEL OFFICIAL CRITICS--AND
THEIR NEWSPAPER OUTLETS--LOOK HIGH AND LOW FOR EXAMPLES
TO SUPPORT THEIR ATTACKS, AND FRESH ASPARAGUS INVESTI-
GATION HAS NOT ESCAPED NOTICE.

3. THERE ARE SOME ADDITIONAL, NON-TRADE POLICY ISSUES
TO CONSIDER. UNLIKE MOST OTHER AREAS OF THE WORLD
AGAINST WHICH THE USG MAY BE OBLIGATED TO CONSIDER THE
APPLICATION OF IMPORT RESTRICTIONS, THE APPLICATION TO
MEXICO COULD RESULT IN AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF IL-
LEGAL AGRICULTURAL WORKERS CROSSING THE BORDER. IN
SHORT, THE MEXICAN WORKERS LAID OFF MAY SIMPLY FOLLOW
THE WORK NORTH, PARTICULARLY AS THE
FRESH ASPARAGUS FIELDS ARE ALONG THE BORDER AREAS.
IN THE EMBASSY'S VIEW, THE USG SHOULD TAKE THIS
MIGRANT LABOR FACTOR INTO ACCOUNT IN EVERY CONSIDER-
ATION OF THE POSSIBLE APPLICATION OF TRADE RESTRICTIONS
AGAINST MEXICAN PRODUCTS.

4. FROM THIS VANTAGE POINT, AT LEAST, IT SEEMS THAT
ANY US ACTION TO RESTRICT FRESH ASPARAGUS IMPORTS
WOULD BE OVERWHELMINGLY TO THE OVERALL DISADVANTAGE OF
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

THE US AND THAT ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF ASSISTANCE SHOULD
BE CONSIDERED.
JOVA

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES, TRADE AGREEMENTS, MEETING PROCEEDINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MEXICO00538
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760016-0114
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760154/aaaabwau.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 8732
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 26 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 MAR 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <23 APR 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ESCAPE CLAUSE PROCEEDING ON ASPARAGUS--INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION EQUALLY DIVIDED IN ITS FINDINGS
TAGS: ETRD, MX, MTN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006